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The Party Faithful Get the Word

The Yugoslav party's executive bureau has distributed a letter signed by Tito, to all the republic and provincial party organizations. Its contents have not been revealed, but the letter apparently spells out the tasks ahead in terms of increasing unity within the ranks and tightening discipline.

Special consultative sessions to examine the letter have already been held by the Croatian, Serbian and Montenegrin party organizations. Tito's words are apparently intended to lay down the law as the party moves toward the national conference slated for November. The letter is the first effort to follow up the hard hitting speeches by Tito and Executive Bureau Secretary Stane Dolanc. Both men strongly pointed to the need to increase central control, guard against regional nationalism within the rank and file, and to weed out party dead wood.

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Nixon Tied for Third with Mao

A poll published recently by the popular Belgrade weekly Nin, states that the US is substantially behind the USSR in popularity and that President Nixon is similarly behind Brezhnev. When asked about the "most popular world leader," 12% of the sample named the Soviet leader, giving him third place behind Indira Ghandi and Willy Brandt. Mr. Nixon tied with Mao for fifth place. The Soviet Union was named Yugoslavia's "best friend" by 26% while only 4% accorded this honor to the US. The Soviet Embassy was reportedly angry that it drew only 26%.

The American Embassy was quick to point out many reasons why it did not consider the results to be indicative of a basic change in Yugoslav popular attitudes. First, public opinion sampling is not the "science" in Yugoslavia that it is in the US. Second, the poll is similar to one published last November which showed the same basic results. Third, Firdus Dzinic, director of the institute which conducted the poll, admitted to an embassy officer the extreme difficulty in finding a "typical" sampling and that this sample was composed mostly of Serbs. He explained

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the Soviet lead by the fact that those questioned were largely "uneducated, non-intellectuals", bureaucrats, who as trade union and party people could not designate a capitalist country as a best friend, peasants who looked on the USSR as a fellow orthodox and slav country and workers who also saw Russians as fellow socialists. Dzinic also claimed that US popularity would rise with the end of the Viet Nam war.

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Gierek Concludes Trip to France

Polish party leader Gierek's official visit to France ended today following five days of pomp and ceremony but little substance. The visit was marked by friendly and cordial remarks by both Gierek and French President Pompidou recalling historic friendly ties between their two countries. Both leaders emphasized economic cooperation and yesterday signed an agreement pledging ten years of cooperation in agricultural, industrial, scientific and technical fields. Interviewed by Le Monde prior to his departure, Gierek criticized the EC's restrictive policy toward socialist countries which he called "barriers preventing the development of economic relations." He praised political contacts between Poland and France and the rapid growth of trade in the past few years, but pointed out that there is considerable room for improvement.

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NOTE : THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
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